



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING COMMAND  
MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER  
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**MAY 27 2004**

COMBAT CENTER BULLETIN 3000

From: Commanding General, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command,  
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center

To: Distribution List

Subj: LETTER OF INSTRUCTION FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY SALUTE

Ref: (a) NAVREGS

Encl: (1) Sequence of Events  
(2) Ceremony Formation Diagram

1. Situation. Announcing the tasks/responsibilities for the Independence Day Salute on 5 July 2004.

2. Mission. Per the reference, each station equipped with a saluting battery fire a twenty-one gun salute on Independence Day (4 July 2004) commencing at 1200 local time. It further directs, when the 4th of July occurs on Sunday, all special ceremonies shall be postponed until the following day, the National Ensign be displayed at half-mast from 0800 until completion of the salute.

- a. The uniform for the saluting detail is Dress Blue Delta.
- b. The uniform for the color detail is Dress Blue Delta.
- c. A rehearsal will be conducted on Friday, 2 July 2004, at 0700, for all hands.
- d. The salutes will be conducted at the Flagpole of the Parade Field.

3. Execution

a. Commanding Officer, Headquarters Battalion. Provide one firing party, consisting of one Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) with sword, and seven riflemen equipped with M16A2 service rifles and blank ammunition, for both the practice and the ceremony. Also one Staff Noncommissioned Officer (SNCO) to serve as the detail Staff Noncommissioned Officer-in-Charge (SNCOIC).

b. Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. Provide the normal ten man, holiday, Sunday detail to raise and lower the Holiday Flag. Have the detail Noncommissioned Officer-in-Charge (NCOIC) report to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Sergeant Major at 0700 the Friday prior for detailed instructions. Color detail will need to report to the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command (MAGTFTC) Command Duty Officer (CDO) at 0730, 1130, and 1815.

c. Director, Operations and Training Directorate. Provide overall coordination.

d. Public Affairs Officer. Provide appropriate pre and post event public affairs support.

e. MAGTFTC Adjutant. Notify the Command Duty Officer (CDO) of the uniform for colors.

f. MAGTFTC Sergeant Major. Coordinate formation activities.

4. Administration and Logistics. Distribution Statement A-1 directives issued by the Commanding General are distributed via e-mail. This Bulletin can be viewed at <https://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/manpower/adj/index.asp>.

5. Command and Signal

a. Signal. This Bulletin is effective the date signed.

b. Command. This Bulletin is applicable to the Marine Corps Total Force.

  
J. D. NICHOLS  
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION: A-1

Independence Day Salute 2004

Sequence Of Events

5 Jul 2004

1130 - Colors detail and Firing party personnel report-in with the Command Duty Officer.

1150 - Firing party marched out to their position in the viewing area.

1155 - Colors Detail marched to the flagpole, and prepares the lanyards to raise colors. The firing Party NCO commands "With Blank ammunition Load"

1200 - Firing party conducts their volley in the following manner:

Note: The firing detail should be composed of an odd number of riflemen to Honor ancient naval superstitions and traditions. Except during actual firing, loaded rifles are kept on SAFE without command until **"UNLOAD"** or **"Inspection, ARMS"** is ordered.

In order to enhance the appearance of the firing party, magazines with Three rounds will be inserted into the rifle out of view of spectators. Two expended cartridges should be placed in the magazine below the three blank cartridges so that adequate tension will be placed on the magazine spring. A round will not be placed in the chamber until the command **"LOAD"** is given.

**26001. TO LOAD**

Note: The firing party is formed in line, with the noncommissioned Officer in charge 3 paces in front of and 1 pace to the right of the Firing party.

**F/P NCO:** Commands **"With Blank Ammunition, LOAD."**

Note: With the firing party formed and at attention, the command is **"With Blank Ammunition, LOAD."** The movements are executed quickly and smartly. On the command **"LOAD,"** members of the firing party execute the following sequence of movements:

**F/P:** Face half right.

a. Move the left foot 12 inches to the left. The legs are kept straight so the weight of the body rests equally on both feet. Riflemen Moves the Left Foot 12 Inches to the Left.

b. Raise the rifle to port arms. Rifle to Port Arms.

c. Pull the charging handle fully to the rear with the right hand and release it, thus chambering a round of blank ammunition. Chambering a Round.

d. Move the right hand to the piston grip.

ENCLOSURE (1)

**26002. TO FIRE BY VOLLEY**

**F/P NCO:** commands **"Ready, Aim, FIRE."**

Note: After the rifles are loaded, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the firing party orders, **"Ready, Aim, FIRE."**  
On **"Ready,"** each rifleman moves the selector lever from SAFE to SEMI-AUTOMATIC with the right thumb.

Note: On **"Aim,"** each rifleman raises the rifle to a position of 45 degrees from the horizontal, places the butt of the rifle firmly in the right shoulder, and rests the handguard in the "V" formed by the thumb and forefinger of the left hand. The fingers are extended and joined. The left wrist is straight. The right hand is wrapped around the pistol grip from the right. The right elbow is raised to near shoulder height. The head is turned 90 degrees to the left and held erect. Both eyes remain open with the right eye looking out over the front sight.

1. Firing Party in Position of Aim and Fire.
2. On **"FIRE,"** squeeze the trigger quickly and lower the rifle to the position of port arms.
3. To continue firing with weapons equipped with blank firing adapters, the commands are **"Aim, FIRE."** Each command is executed as explained above.
4. To continue firing with weapons not equipped with blank firing adapters, the commands are **"Ready, Aim, FIRE."**
  - a. On **"Ready,"** each rifleman manually chambers the next round.
  - b. **"Aim"** and **"FIRE"** are executed as describe above.

Note: After the last round has been fired, rifles are brought to the position of port arms. From this position the noncommissioned officer in charge of the firing party gives the command of **"Present, ARMS."**

**F/P NCO:** Commands **"Present, ARMS."**

Note: This movement is executed in three steps on the command of Execution **"ARMS."**

- a. With the left foot extended, pivot on the heel of the left foot and toe of the right foot, as in the first count of a left face.
- b. Bring the heel of the right foot smartly against the heel of the left foot, completing the left face.
- c. The riflemen then moves the rifle to present arms. The noncommissioned officer in charge of the firing party then executes a right face and present sword.

ENCLOSURE (1)

**Colors Detail NCO:** Commands **"Colors"**

**Colors Detail:** Raises the National Ensign to full staff.

**Colors Detail NCO:** Commands **"Hand, Salute"**.

**Colors Detail:** "Executes a Hand Salute.

**Colors Detail NCOIC:** Commands **"Ready TWO"**

Note: Upon completion of the Hand Salute, the lanyard is secured to the flag pole and the Colors Detail Marches to a position where the CDO is located.

**F/P NCO:** Commands **"Order, Arms"**.

**Colors Detail NCOIC:** Reports the performance of the ceremony to the Command Duty Officer.

Note: After the ceremony, (memorial service, funeral, etc.) the firing party is brought to order arms, faced to the right and marched from the site of the ceremony.

**F/P NCO:** Commands **"Right Face, Forward March"**

#### **26003. TO UNLOAD**

Note: The weapons will be unloaded and inspected as soon as possible after leaving the site of the ceremony and out of sight of the spectators, if possible.

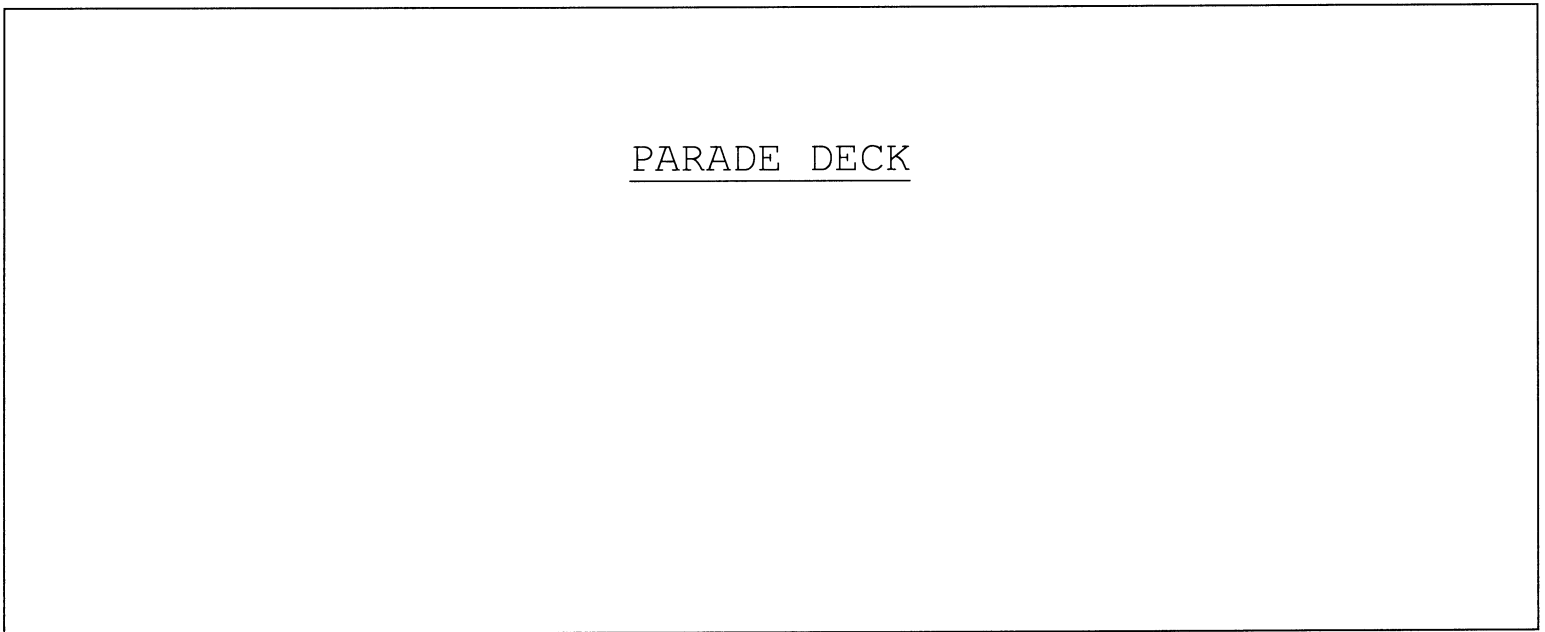
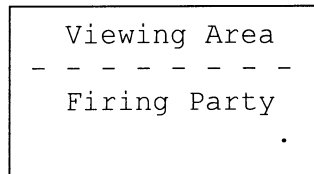
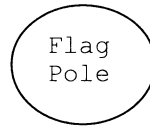
**F/P NCO:** Commands **"UNLOAD."**

Note: The command is **"UNLOAD."** It is executed by executing inspection arms with magazine.

**F/P NCO:** Reports to the Command Duty Officer, "Weapons all clear"

Note: This concludes the ceremony.

Ceremony Formation Diagram



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Sturgis Road

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ENCLOSURE (2)